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TO THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF PENRYN.

ANNUAL REPORT

for

THE YEAR 1943

of

THE MEDICAL OFFICER

of

HEALTH.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1943.

To the council of the Borough of Penryn :-

Gentlemen,

My Annual Report will again be very short, for obvious reasons, and confined to essentials only.

SOCIAL CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

These have not changed to any appreciable extent. There were still a few evacuees billeted in the Borough and arrangements for their welfare have been quite satisfactory.

Unemployment has naturally been no sort of problem. Rather has the problem been one of finding enough people to do the jobs in hand. This especially applies to domestic work, that Cinderella of employment. The ordinary housewife has had and is having perhaps one of the least enviable tasks in this war. In addition to the routine job of running her home with inadequate or no help at all, she has had the additional worries of having to make do with rations both in relation to food and clothing and I need not emphasise what extra time and work this entails. But in spite of all this these housewives have found time - or rather made time - to do various kinds of "war-work", such as billeting, canteen work, A.R.P services etc, too numerous to mention in detail. All this work is of an unspectacular kind and for that reason is not always appreciated at its full worth by the "man-in-the-street", but I venture to say that it has played and is playing a very important part in our march towards Victory and Peace.

STATISTICS.

Area in acres. . . . . 721.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1943). . . . . 1,113.

Rateable Value. . . . . .£17,936.

Sum produced by a penny rate. £67-5-6

Vital Statistics.

Population (estimated). . . . . 3,530.

		M.	F.	Total	
Live Births.	Legitimate.	34.	23.	57.	Birth-rate per 1,000 of Population 18.1
	Illegitimate.	4.	5.	9.	
Still Births.		1.	1.	2.	Rate per 1,000 births- 30.3
Deaths.		25.	19.	44.	Death-rate 12.4 per 1,000.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

1. Puerperal sepsis. . . . . nil.
2. Other causes. . . . . nil.

Deaths of Infants under one year of age :- Legitimate. . . . 3.
Illegitimate. . . . 0.

All infants per 1,000 live births. 46.8

Deaths from Cancer (all ages). . . . . 5.

. . . . . Measles (all ages). . . . . 0.

. . . . . Whooping Cough (all ages). . . . . 0.

. . . . . Diarrhoea (under 2 years). . . . . 1.

These statistics are quite satisfactory- It will be observed that while the death-rate is slightly lower than last year the birth-rate has markedly increased. There were again no deaths from puerperal causes.

The infant mortality rate is up, but with such small numbers this is not a valuable guide and in any case compares well with the rate for the Country as a whole.

Considering that we have had nearly 5 years of war conditions we can feel tolerably satisfied.

I would note that the difference between the number of inhabited houses at the end of 1942 (see my last report) and the end of 1943 is due to the fact that no account was taken in the last report of houses damaged by enemy action.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

M.O.H., J.N.I.Blamey,M.B., B.Ch. D.P.H. (Part time & also District M.O under Public Assistance Authority and Public Vaccinator).

Sanitary Inspector. 1st: half year, J.H.Harris A.R.S.I (Half time) who also holds a Certificate for Food Inspection.
2nd: half year., E.St.L.Whitford M.R.S.I. A.I.S.E.

There have been no alterations of importance in the health services.

During the year our Sanitary Inspector Mr.J.H.Harris retired after many years faithful service. I always found in him a willing and loyal colleague with whom it was a pleasure to work and I should like to take this opportunity of wishing him many happy years of retirement.

A very welcome addition to the Health Services was the appointment by the County Council of Miss Bennett as a health visitor. She has already proved of the greatest value in supervising school clinics and the Infant Welfare Centre, in visiting all babies born in the Borough, giving advice and especially seeing that the younger children are receiving their free issue of Cod Liver Oil and Orange-juice which is so important. I quote here an instance of what I mean. Prior to the Health visitor's arrival the annual issue of Fruit-juice was 956 : last year it was 4,415.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water. Supplies have continued to be satisfactory in quantity and quality. I receive the analyst's reports regularly, but do not propose to publish them. They have been invariably good.

Drainage & Sewage. Nothing new to report under this head.

Closet Accomodation. There is still room for improvement in the type of closet supplied to certain houses and in the distribution. Each house should have its own separate closet. I hope this will be incorporated in our new Bye-laws.

Rivers and Streams. Nil to report, except that the practise of throwing refuse into streams seems to be on the increase.

Shops and Offices, Camping Sites etc.

These have been inspected regularly- no serious shortcomings were found and no action was deemed necessary.

Eradication of Bed-bugs. Two or three instances of infestation occurred and were suitably dealt with.

HOUSING.

There is nothing to report under this head except to say that the existing houses have been kept in quite fair repair considering the difficulties of labour and material and that the Council has been actively engaged on plans for a considerable housing-scheme after the war.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk.

I have very little to add to what I said in my last report. Conditions are much the same except t t we, as a Local Authority, will no longer be under the necessity, apparently, of sampling milk for cleanliness, either in the case of producers or retailers as this work will be done for us by the Ministry of Agriculture.

As regards the Cooperative Creamery I am still of the opinion that the water supply to this factory should be from the mains and not from an open stream as at present. This work should be undertaken at the earliest opportunity.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

During the year the following notifications were received :-

Measles.	68.
Whooping Cough.	9.
Pneumonia.	5.
Scarlet Fever.	1.
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis. . .	1.
Dysentery.	1.
Paratyphoid.	3.

The measles epidemic was of a mild type and there were very few complications.

The Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis and Dysentery cases were both removed to the County Isolation Hospital. The three Paratyphoids were treated at home as excellent facilities for this happened to exist. They were all members of the same household and contracted the complaint when on holiday in another district.

I should like to say here that the County Isolation Hospital Scheme has worked very well in my opinion. I have been particularly struck by the promptness with which cases are collected by Ambulance.

Immunization against Diphtheria has gone on steadily and a very high percentage of all children have been protected.

TUBERCULOSIS.

There were 3 new cases notified :- 2 were Pulmonary - one male aged 37 and one female aged 19 : and 1 non-pulmonary- a female aged 10.

There was one death from Pulmonary Tuberculosis- a male aged 53.

I have the honour to remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. N. L. BLAMEY.

July 1944.